4.14 Word-length adjustment

A word-length adjustment is employed, for example, to list several words consisting of the different number of characters. Word-lengths of all the listed words are adjusted to the same by controlling character spaces of the words as shown in Figure 6.
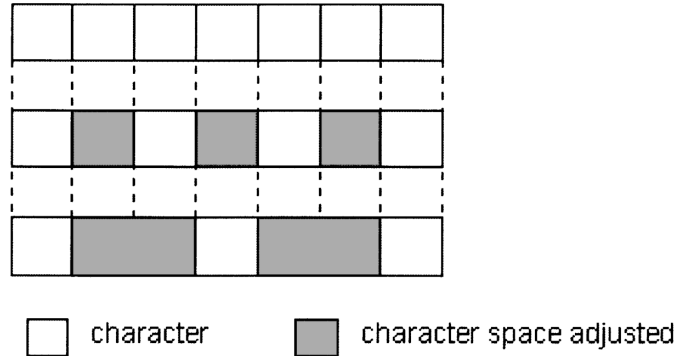

Figure 6 — Listed words with word-length adjustment

The total length for a word-length adjustment is specified by the product of the character size and the number of characters. Those properties apply to a fixed pitch composition. A character space in each word to be adjusted is described by the expression:

character space
= [(total length specified) − (character size)(number of characters in a word)]
/ [(number of characters in a word) − 1]

4.15 Character space adjustment

In a composition of heading (see 4.19) or headline (see 3.13 and 4.8) where a line consists of comparatively small number of characters, character spaces are adjusted for readability as shown in Figure 7. Those properties apply to a fixed pitch composition.
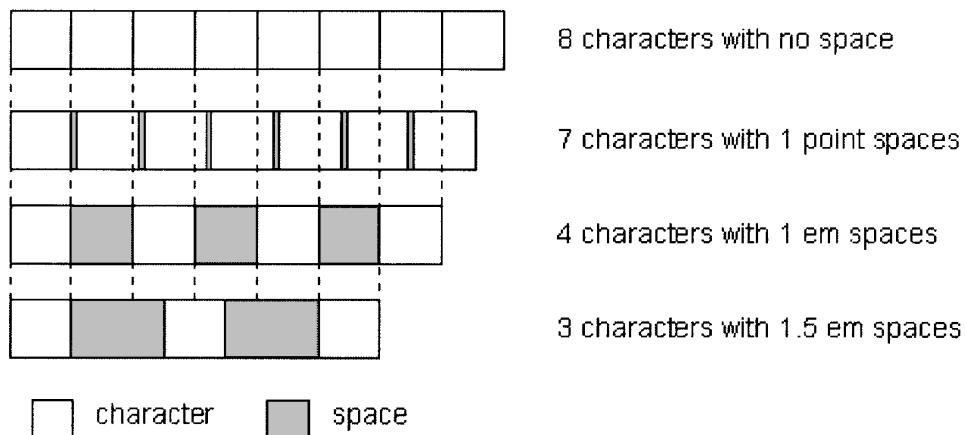

8 characters with no space

7 characters with 1 point spaces

4 characters with 1 em spaces

3 characters with 1.5 em spaces

Figure 7 — Examples of character space adjustment

Typical character space adjustments for horizontal and vertical compositions are shown in Table 9.